**IT Applications, Unit 4**

**Security and ethical considerations, Ch 8, p 308**

Ethics and Information Systems

1. Explain what is meant by the term ethics.

Moral principles or guidelines that govern particular practices or actions. Whilst morally questionable, not against the law. E.g. violent video games; principle of protecting children vs. freedom of expression

1. What is the ethical dilemma in relation to video games?

Whether or not the violence in the video games has an impact on children, what age to allow children to play videogames and restrictions (g, pg, etc.)

Key areas relating to ethics and information systems are:

1. Workplace responsibilities
   1. Outline the responsibilities of employees and employers.

Employee expected to work in interests of employer. Organisation expected to provide good quality products & high quality service.

1. Codes of conduct and computer-use policies
   1. What is meant by a code of conduct?

Code of conduct - behaviour expected of employee.

* 1. What information do computer-use policies generally contain?

Guidelines to what should and should not be done on the computers or peripheral equipment, what is permitted, and when.

1. Employee monitoring
   1. Why are these systems sometimes regarded as unethical?

These systems are sometimes considered unethical because they intrude on the employee’s right to privacy.

* 1. Where does the most common monitoring occur?

Most monitoring occurs on emails, files on their desktop and the desktop layout.

* 1. List the advantages and disadvantages of employee monitoring.

Advantages - Ensures employees are doing company work, ensures employees maintain target performance levels, it saves time and money.

Disadvantages - It is intrusive and may impact on employee privacy & mistrust may develop between employee and employer.

* 1. How is web browsing monitored?

Web browsing is monitored with automatic logs which store the history of sites accessed by the user.

* 1. What is a cookie?

A cookie is a small file that web servers store on the user’s computer, containing data about the users email address and web viewing preferences. Stored on the user’s hard disk and retrieved by the browser to access the user’s data.

1. Ethics and the internet
   1. Explain what is meant by the term, netiquette.

Netiquette is a means of regulating internet publishing, and conventions of politeness observed in internet communication.

* 1. List some netiquette guidelines

E.g. not posting to inappropriate groups, personal messages to one or two individuals should not be posted to newsgroups, refraining from commercial advertising etc.

**Resolving legal, ethical and social tensions,** p 514

1. List the six steps for handling ethical dilemmas.

* Identify the problem
* Identify the stakeholders
* Identify possible alternatives
* Identify ethical standards
* Evaluate options
* Make a decision